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MANUFACTURERS.

THE NEW MACHINERY in OUR PIANO FACTORY  
is now turning out FIRST CLASS PIANOS with Iron Frames and Solid Teak Cases. Our Mr. HICKIE has had vast experience and OUR OWN MAKE IS THE BEST FOR CHINA.

A NEW LOT BRUNSWICKS, RACHALS, BECHSTEINS PIANOS.

[284]

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W. BREWER &amp; CO

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In addition to the BLACK-ENSDERFER TYPE-WRITER, we Manufacture a complete line of DESKS, roll and flat top, TYPE-WRITER CABINETS, OFFICE TABLES, and DESKS, SUPPLY SIGN-SIGN, Letter-Desks and Calculators, FILE-CAES, CARD INDEX CABINETS, and any article used in an Office or Library.

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Cable Address: "Black" Hongkong, 24th October 1899. [267]

## INSURANCES.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE, LONDON FOUNDED 1710.

The Undersigned, having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

SIEMSSSEN &amp; CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1899. [25]

AACHEN AND MUNICH FIRE INSURANCE CO. OF AIX-LA-CHAPELLE.

T HE Undersigned, having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

REUTER, BROCKELMANN &amp; CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 21st April, 1897. [106]

TRANSAANTHATIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

The Undersigned, having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

SIEMSSSEN &amp; CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 16th November, 1892. [24]

NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

The Undersigned AGENTS of the above Company are PREPARED TO ACCEPT First Class Foreign and Chinese Risks at Current Rates.

SIEMSSSEN &amp; CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 26th May, 1895. [26]

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

TOTAL FUNDS AT THE END OF DECEMBER, 1898 \$13,959,663 on 0d.

I. AUTHORIZED CAPITAL... \$3,000,000 0

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL... 2,769,000 0

PAID-UP CAPITAL... 687,500 0

II. EXTR FUNDS... 2,765,459 7 1

The Undersigned, having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

DOUGLAS LARPK &amp; CO., Agents for the Phoenix Fire Office.

Hongkong, 17th August, 1897. [27]

SCOTTISH METROPOLITAN ASSURANCE CO.

The combined ACCIDENT and LIFE POLICY is the MOST ADVANTAGEOUS form of INSURANCE.

A yearly premium of £25 2s (age 30) secures the following:—

£2,000 in case of death by accident.

£1,000 in case of natural death.

£1,000 in case of permanent total disablement by accident.

£500 in case of partial total disablement by accident.

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Accidents insured against for £1 and £2 per annum (£1.00 in case of death, by weekly payments in case of injury).

For further Particulars apply to J. Y. VERNON, Agent.

Hongkong, 8th June, 1898. [161]

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The Undersigned are now prepared to GRANT POLICIES of INSURANCE against FIRE at Current Rates.

DOUGLAS LARPK &amp; CO., Agents for the Phenix Fire Office.

Hongkong, 17th August, 1897. [27]

SCOTTISH METROPOLITAN ASSURANCE CO.

The combined ACCIDENT and LIFE POLICY is the MOST ADVANTAGEOUS form of INSURANCE.

A yearly premium of £25 2s (age 30) secures the following:—

£2,000 in case of death by accident.

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For further Particulars apply to J. Y. VERNON, Agent.

Hongkong, 8th June, 1898. [161]

## THE HONGKONG DAILY MAIL, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 1900.

## BANKS.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF CHINA.

ESTABLISHED BY IMPERIAL DECREE OF THE 12TH NOVEMBER, 1866.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, Shanghai Tls. 5,000,000

PAID-UP CAPITAL... 2,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: SHANGHAI.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES:

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Chao-fu Peking

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Tientsin.

The Bank makes and receives for collection Bills of Exchange drawn on the above places, and will Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers payable at its Branches and Agencies

HONGKONG BRANCH.

Advances made on approved securities.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS

At 2% per annum on Current Account daily balance.

On Fixed Deposits for 3 months

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## CARTRIDGES.

**NOBEL'S SPORTING BALLISTITE**  
Absolutely Smokeless and Water-resisting  
**BEST NITRO-POWDER IN THE WORLD**  
PRICE OF 12-HOLE CARTRIDGES:  
Loaded with Powder only, 1 oz. of shot.  
Primrose Cases ... \$5.65 \$7.40  
Pegamoid Cases ... 6.25 8.00  
Ejector Brass Cases. 6.00 8.65  
5% Discount on orders of 1,000 and over.  
Apply to W. M. SCHMIDT & CO., Gunmakers, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 27th July, 1897. [120]

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MERCHANT NAVY  
LONG FLAX CANVAS  
RELIANCE CROWN  
TARPAULING  
ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.  
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AMBERITE "CAFF" BRIDGES.

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COLD STORAGE.

**THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED**, is now prepared to receive perishable provisions for Cold Storage at EAST POINT at Moderate Rates.

Wm. PARLANE,  
Manager.  
Hongkong, 17th February, 1899. [69]

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No. 6, Ichibouse Street, Praya Central.

Head Office—TOKIO.  
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AGENCIES—

Mitsui Coal Mines.

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The Osaka Shosha Kaisha, Limited.

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MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA,

M. FUJISE, Manager.

Honkong, 19th August, 1899. [2743]

YEE SAN G &amp; CO., COAL MERCHANTS

have always on hand

LARGE STOCKS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF COAL.

Address—Care of MESSRS. KWONG SANG &amp; CO.

No. 63 PRAYA. [583]

S I E N T I N G,

SURGEON DENTIST, No. 10, D'AGUILAR STREET.

TERMS VERY MODERATE.

Consultant Frc.

Hongkong, 23rd September, 1891. [2410]

P O R T L A N D C E M E N T

J. B. WHITE &amp; BROS.

S O L D A GENTS FOR CHINA.

H O N K O N G , W I S E &amp; C O .

Honkong, 16th September, 1899. [5132]

ARGUS DE LA PRESSE.

FONDÉ EN 1879.

POUR être sûr de ne pas laisser échapper un journal qui l'auteur nomme, il était abonné à l'*Argus de la Presse*, qui lit, décoppe, et traduit tous les journaux du monde, et en fournit les extraits sur l'importé quel sujet.HECTOR MALOT (*Zyde*, p. 70 et 92).*L'Argus de la Presse* fournit aux artistes, littérateurs, savants, hommes politiques, tout ce qui paraît sur leur compte dans les journaux et revues du monde entier.*L'Argus de la Presse* est le collaborateur indiqué de tous ceux qui préparent un ouvrage, étudient une question, s'occupent de statistique, etc., etc.S'adresser aux bureaux de *l'Argus*, 14, rue Drouot, Paris.—Téléphone.

L'ARGUS LTD. 5,000 JOURNAUX PAR JOUR.

[3884]

KOWLOON EXTENSION.

A NEW MAP of HONGKONG, KOW-

LOON and ADJACENT TERRI-

TORIES showing the Boundary under the New Convention, with the Towns, Villages, &amp;c. Prepared from Authoritative Sources and Printed in Colours. Price 81.

To be had at Messrs. KELLY &amp; WALSH, LTD.

Daily Press Office.

Honkong, 24th October, 1898. [2891]

TO EXPORTERS, IMPORTERS,

SHIPPIERS.

YOUNG and ENERGETIC GERMAN

ENGLISH BUSINESS MAN for-

merly with STOLTERFOHT AND HAGAN, Hong-

kong, Resident of Boston, Mass., intending to

establish himself there as Agent and Resident

Buyer for the U.S.A., desires Correspondence with responsible Firms, with the object of

Acting for them in this or any other capacity.

Experienced in Produce Export and Import or Manufacturing.

All References.

FRED. W. BERGMANN,

Room 53,

28, School Street, Boston, Mass,

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[2022]

D R A M A T I C N E W N O V E L

OF

M Y S T E R Y A N D S E N S A T I O N

BY

A GIFTED WRITER.

On Saturday 13th inst. in the "HONG-

KONG DAILY PRESS" the publication

will be commenced of an Absorbing Work of

Fiction from the pen of Mr.

RICHARD MARSH,

Author of

"In Full Cry,"

"The Beetle, A Mystery,"

"The Crime and the Criminal,"

"The Datchot Diamonds," etc.

The New Story is Entitled

THE GOLD DELL: A DEMON.

MR. RICHARD MARSH

is an author who has made great strides in

popularity during the past few years, and he

now holds a firm place in public favour. His

success is not far to seek. He brings to his

work gifts of a very rare order; he is a delight-

fully unconventional writer, and tells a story

in quite a unique way. Combining in himself

the sensationalism of Wilkie Collins, and the

humorous insight of Charles Dickens, his style

exhibits qualities which it owes to neither of

these famous novelists, nor to any other. It is

characterised by a directness and veracity which

invest the narrative with peculiar and fascinating

interest. As for plot and incident, it is

sufficient to say that in all Mr. Marsh's stories

the movement is very rapid, and the reader is

carried forward with breathless interest.

Honkong, 9th January, 1900. [102]

## NOW ON SALE

IMPERIAL QUARTO.

## E N G L I S H AND CHINESE

## DICTIONARY

## WITH THE PUNTI AND MANDARIN

## PRONUNCIATION.

For comprehensiveness and practical service

this Work stands unrivaled. All the new

words which the Chinese have of late years been

compelled to coin to express the numerous ob-

jects in machinery, photography, telegraphy,

and in science generally, which the rapid advance

of foreign relations has imposed upon them, are

here given in *extenso*. Each and every word is

fully illustrated and explained, forming exercises

for students of a most instructive nature. Both

the Court and Punti pronunciations are given

the accents being carefully marked on the best

principles hitherto attained. The typography

displays the success of an attempt to make the

Chinese and English type correspond in the size

of body, thereby effecting a vast economy of

space, achieving a clearness not previously

attained, and dispensing with those vast margins

and vacant spaces which have heretofore characterized Chinese publications.

To illustrate the vast scope of the work the

following facts are submitted for consideration:

Chalmers' Vocabulary contains about 16,000

Chinese characters, and Methurst's English

and Chinese Dictionary about 100,000, whilst

this work contains more than 50,000 English

words, and upwards of 600,000 Chinese characters.

Again, despite all the grammars and

other elementary works as yet published, the

student of this difficult language absolutely re-

quires examples to display the various applica-

tions and equivalents of different words which

have one general meaning. Of these examples

this work contains more than five times as

many as any other Dictionary hitherto published.

For practical purposes the arrangement of

the work is so complete that a reference to its

pages enables a person who understands English

to communicate effectively with natives who

understand nothing but Chinese. In this respect

the work will be found indispensable to all

Europeans residing in China, and to the natives

themselves it explains subjects fully with which

very few indeed of them are perfectly acquainted.

To parties resident in England and interested

in China it cannot but be invaluable occasionally.

It comprises upwards of two thousand large

quarto pages.

4 VOLS. IMPERIAL QUARTO, Price \$20;

A Large REDUCTION in PRICE is made

to Purchasers of SIX or more Copies.

HONGKONG:

"DAILY PRESS" OFFICE, WYNDHAM ST.

## FOR SALE.

## MAP OF THE SIKIANG or WEST

## RIVER.

From HONGKONG to WUCHOWFU,

Showing the Ports and Calling Places

Open to Foreign Trade, 1897.

Published at Daily Press Office.

Price 25 Cents, Cash.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1897. [463]

## SUPREME COURT

17th January

## IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE  
(PUNISHE JUDGE).

THE CHONG KI Y. LEUNG VING KAI.  
This was a claim for \$500, as damages for the infringement of the plaintiff's exclusive right to keep dress opium shop at Tung Lung Chau and Quarry Bay.

Mr. Mounsey (Messrs. Mounsey and Britton) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Ewens for the defendant.

Mr. Mounsey read the petition and answer. The petition said the plaintiff was a dress opium dealer residing at No. 17, Irving Street, and the defendant was the dress opium farmer residing at No. 46, Queen's Road West. In or about the month of December, 1897, the defendant addressed a certain document to the nature of a circular note or letter to certain of the dress opium dealers and opium dray keepers in the colony, inviting them to tender for the right to deal in dress opium at the various villages in the colony, and in consequence of such circular note or letter the plaintiff was induced to, and, in fact, did, tender for the right to deal in dress opium in the villages of Tung Lung Chan and Quarry Bay. At the time of making his said tenders the plaintiff deposited with the defendant a sum of \$20 in respect of such tenders for each of the said villages. The amount of the plaintiff's tender in respect of Tung Lung Chau was \$136 per Chinese month and that for the village of Quarry Bay was \$49 per Chinese month. The plaintiff having submitted the highest tenders for the villages in question, such tenders were accepted by the defendant for a term of three years, and the plaintiff, after paying to the defendant the sum of \$139, being the balance due on the said tenders for rent for the first month of the said term, commenced the business of a dress opium dealer at Tung Lung Chan and Quarry Bay. On or about the 15th day of October, 1898, the defendant, contrary to all usage and custom, and in violation of the rights of the plaintiff under such license, opened a dress opium shop at Tung Lung Chau and commenced to carry on the business of a dress opium dealer in opposition to the plaintiff, whereby the plaintiff suffered considerable loss and damage in his business of a dress opium dealer. The plaintiff therefore prayed (1) that the Court would order and decree that the plaintiff had an exclusive right for the term of three years from the 1st March, 1898, to deal in dress opium at the villages of Tung Lung Chan and Quarry Bay; (2) that the defendant should pay to the plaintiff the sum of \$90 by way of damages, (3) and that the defendant do pay to the defendant his costs of suit and such other and further relief as the nature of the case might require. The answer stated that the defendant denied paragraph 1 of the petition except that the defendant admitted that he was the dress opium dealer. The defendant denied that the plaintiff ever tendered or was induced to tender for the right to deal in dress opium, or that any person was ever accepted for any place, but admitted the rest of paragraph 2. The defendant denied paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the petition.

The plaintiff, having given evidence, was cross-examined by Mr. Ewens. He said he had taken out several monthly licenses. The last license he took out was taken out after the writ in this suit was issued and had expired. He had not the license.

Mr. Ewens read from the license a paragraph which stated that the license was for one month only and could be withdrawn at any time.

The plaintiff said he got his privilege by tender, and was to pay for his license monthly.

This license was only good for a month, when he had to renew it. He had not renewed the last one.

He admitted that the opium farmer had the right to issue as many licenses as he pleased in the city, but in the villages the number was limited.

His Lordship said it appeared from the license that the witness had only a license to sell dress opium. The only man who could sell exclusively was the opium farmer.

Mr. Mounsey said the defendant invited tenders for permission to open shops in certain places.

Several tenders were sent in to him and he accepted the highest.

The defendant's idea was to let out these tenders for the different villages in order to save himself trouble for the whole of the three years which he derived from the Government.

The defendant took the highest tender and said, "Very well, I will accept you for three years, but I can only grant you a license for a month at a time. So long as you go on paying me this monthly tender I shall renew your license." The tender had not been renewed this month, but the term had only just expired.

His Lordship pointed out that there was nothing in the license to prevent the defendant granting a license for another shop.

It was just the same as a license for the sale of arms.

The plaintiff said the circular which the defendant sent out said the tender was for the exclusive right. He had not the circular with him.

His Lordship gave judgment for the defendant with costs.

## THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

## OPERATIONS BY GENERAL FRENCH.

London, 1st January. It seems the Boers vacated their entrenchments at Rensburg on Saturday fearing to be cut off, General French having advanced within three miles.

General French kept them well on the move through Saturday and Sunday and on Monday morning attacked them at Colesberg, having brought up his infantry in wagons. His cavalry and horses and artillery meanwhile had got round to their right flank and the Boers fled in disorder.

London, 2nd January.

Nothing official has yet been published regarding General French's victory and the British occupation of Colesberg, but two papers confirm the news.

The *Daily Mail's* despatch from Colesberg states that after two hours' artillery duel the Boers retired northward abandoning their Hotchkiss and several wagons of stores and our losses were slight.

London, 1st January.

Later particulars concerning General French's operations came from Reusberg, dated Monday afternoon. General French continued to keep the enemy on the move and pressed their rear closely, both on Saturday and Sunday. Last night it was the cavalry with artillery and infantry, the latter being in wagons started their night march and at daybreak arrived within striking distance of the Boer forces. The infantry, with the field batteries, made a simultaneous attack on the front, while the cavalry with the Royal Horse Artillery got round the enemy's right flank. The plan of campaign worked without a hitch. The Boers, who were utterly surprised, finding their retreat threatened, fled in a disorderly manner eastwards, leaving Colesberg in our hands.

London, 2nd January.

A telegram from Cape Town states that force of 2,000 Boers are advancing against the position taken up by the British at Dordrecht and that the pickets have been driven in.

General French has followed up the advantage gained by threatening the communication of the Boer force at Rensburg by sending a strong force of cavalry and horse artillery to follow up the enemy. The force started on Saturday night and at daybreak on Sunday the artillery shelled the enemy's positions outside Colesberg. The Boers did not return the fire, the unexpected movement having demoralised the enemy.

Stocksford, 31st December.

Lieut. Milford was out of owing to an incorrect report to Captain De Montmorency who was led to believe all were obeying the order to retire. The error was discovered too late the same evening. In the morning a very pretty fight occurred. Captain Goldsworthy succeeded in reaching the eastern end of the plateau under the Boer position while Captain De Montmorency and scouts mounted the southern cliff. The Boers were now pressing Milford heavily, whose ammunition was failing, but on reinforcements appearing the Boers fled and contended themselves with long range firing from the hills. The party being rescued and our front cleared our guns opened on the enemy, replying ineffectually, though the shells burst on percussion not falling dead. Our slight loss was due to the enemy's poor courage and bad shooting. The Boers vainly tried the white flag with Milford, following with their usual valour. We killed two of the party, including the bearer of the flag.

The engagements yesterday and to-day were most creditable to our men and a distinct reverse to the Boers.

## THE GERMAN PRESS AND THE SEIZURE OF A TRANSPORT.

London, 31st December.

The Berlin newspapers are somewhat divided by the British capture of the German steamer *Janderauth* at Delagoa Bay, but they realise that the question is purely a technical one. The German warships *Condor* and *Schwalbe* are en route to Delagoa Bay.

London, 31st December.

The German officers arrested on the steamer *Janderauth* state that arms are being landed at Delagoa Bay for the Boers also that a French liner lately brought in there two large guns from Madagascar consigned to the same destination.

Dr. Leyds denies this and says the imputation is only a pretext for occupying Delagoa Bay.

## MILITARY REFORMS NEEDED.

The Times in a leading article says that the war in South Africa has convinced the nation that far-reaching military reforms are very urgently needed.

## SKIRMISH AT DE AAR.

London, 31st December.

Two attempts were made to cut the railway at Victoria West to the south of the Dr. Anz moutain Boers, who exchanged shots with British pickets on the night of the 26th. One wrecker was detected and shot.

## AMERICAN PRO-BOER RESOLUTIONS.

London, 31st December.

The New York and Boston City Councils have adopted resolutions wishing success to the Boers.

## THE QUEEN'S XMAS MESSAGE.

London, 1st January.

The Queen has cabled the following to the General commanding the various Divisions at the Cape: "I wish you and all my brave soldiers a happy Xmas. May God protect and bless you all."

## PENIANS IN AMERICA.

The Penians have recommended actively in the United States, and ridiculous statements are made to the effect that they are storing munitions of war to invade Canada.

## THE CHINESE MINISTER AT LIVERPOOL.

The Chinese Minister was introduced recently to the great crowd of business men in the Liverpool Exchange Room, the Lord Mayor accompanying him. Mr. G. R. Saarbach, chairman of the Exchange, said he was sure they would welcome the Minister as the representative of a great and friendly Empire with whom we had extensive commercial relations. He could assure his Excellency that the closer those relations became and the more trade they could do with China the better they would be pleased. The Chinese Minister said it had given him the greatest gratification to visit the second commercial city of the United Kingdom. There were now two highways connecting the East with the Far West. One was through the Suez Canal and the other was through the gate of Liverpool by the Canadian-Pacific line. Through that gate they could save two or three days in comparison with the Canal journey, and he had no doubt that they were now trying to still further increase the speed of their liners, which were floating towns, and to still further shorten the journey. They would thus bring two Empires—one the greatest, most powerful, and prosperous of the Western Empires, and the other the most ancient Empire in the East—more closely together. Liverpool was a household word in China. It was just as well known in China as London itself, and he could scarcely realize the magnitude of their commercial importance without paying a visit to that Exchange. His industrial tour throughout the kingdom had the object of bringing the producers and the consumers more closely together, and he hoped that his effort would enlist their sympathy and support. He had the greatest respect and admiration for Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, and he asked them to be so good as to join with him in giving three most hearty cheers for Her Majesty. Enthusiastic cheers were given for the Queen and also for the Emperor of China and his Minister. The entire company then sang "God Save the Queen." The Chinese Minister was last night the guest of the Lord Mayor at a banquet at the Town-hall. The toast of the Queen and Emperor of China having been honoured, the Lord Mayor gave that of "The Trade and Prosperity of the Chinese Empire." His Excellency, in responding, said that the present Government of China was extremely anxious to introduce proper measures of reform, but they must have patience, remembering that Rome was not built in a day. In the century which was about to open he trusted that the trading relation between Great Britain and China would be developed to their fullest extent.

## DISCIPLINE OF JAPANESE VESSELS.

A NEW YEAR'S DAY INCIDENT.

When a few days out from Honolulu, on New Year's Day, the firemen on board the *America Maru*, in order to celebrate the day, tossed several European engineers in a blanket. Everything was done in a good-natured way, reports the *Japan Herald*, till they came to Mr. Seavers, the chief engineer. Evidently, by preconceived action, they failed to catch him. Mr. Seavers fell on deck, but luckily, by using his hands to advantage, did not hurt himself. The second engineer tried to interfere, but had to desist, as the coolies were going for him. Later on the firemen came on deck armed with bottles, iron bars, etc., and threatened the second engineer, who, through the good advice of Captain Goings, was prevented from striking the men. Later on again one of the coolies tried to attack the first engineer, but he was put in irons. As in the *Tsushima* occurrence, this excited the rest of the gang, who made disturbance, till finally the captain liberated the man on promise that he would behave himself. The matter has been reported to the head office of the *Toyo Kisen Kaisha* in Tokyo. —*Kobe Chronicle*.

## SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

The artificial production of cold has reached its greatest development in Munich, where refrigeration by the passage of gas from high to low pressure was begun in 1851, and has since found so many applications that the industry has become second only to that of brewing. In the cold air storage building the most complete yet erected, the temperature of the cells is kept at 3° C. (37.4 deg F.) the air containing 60 to 70 per cent. of moisture. These are the chief industrial and scientific uses of the low temperatures: manufacture of ice in the brewing industry; preservation of meat and other food; preservation of anatomical specimens in the morgue; arrestation of the development of the silk cocoon; arrestation of the growth of bulbs (making them independent of their customary flowering season); in the preparation of explosives; in the preparation of mixtures rich in oxygen; in the manufacture of ozone; in the testing of meteorological instruments and in scientific research generally.

## IN PHOTOGRAPHING WOOD-SPECIMENS.

In photographing wood-specimens without a lens, Herr Fromm places a piece of tin foil on one side of the section and the film surface of sheet of bromide paper against the other side. A good impression—showing clearly the rings and rays of the wood—is produced in about half a minute, when a metallic point negatively charged by an influence machine is brought within about two inches of the paper. It is explained that the paper becomes negatively charged, and a photographically active glow-light is produced between it and the wood. It is proposed to try this method for copying drawings and other purposes.

## THE ARCTIC OCEAN.

Herr Fromm says the Arctic is a kind of lagoon separated from the Atlantic by a submarine ridge stretching from Spitzbergen to Greenland. To this ridge is due a curious condition. The Arctic is covered with a layer of slightly salt water from the Siberian rivers and Bering Strait and under this is the normally salt Gulf Stream water. If the two layers were mixed the average temperature would fall, but this average would not be as cold as the surface layer. This accounts for the enormous formation of ice.

## CELLULOSE, THE FIBROUS BASE OF PLANT STRUCTURE.

Cellulose, the fibrous base of plant structure, is familiar in our paper and cotton, has long had its great usefulness extended by impregnation with gypsum, resin and other substances, or covering with impervious varnishes. More recent products into which it is transformed by chemical destruction of the cellulose are listed by S. Fornari: 1. Several kinds of parchment paper are produced, resembling true parchment from animal skins, by plunging unsize paper

into strong sulphuric acid, then rinsing from excess of acid by washing and neutralization. 2.

Sulphite cellulose, prepared by treatment with acid sulphite of calcium or magnesium became

thirty years ago the most important substance in paper manufacture. When saturated for a long time in a pulping machine it yields

material for a cheap parchment paper, which in thin transparent sheets is known as "parchyn," and is used for packing perishable articles. 3. By long trituration of sulphitic cellulose, destroying completely the textile fibres and spontaneous evaporation of the pulp, blocks of amorphous cellulose are obtained.

This material, called "cellulith," when freed from air by boiling or steaming, can be worked like horn or ebony, resists the action of alcohol, petroleum, fats and oils, and is fairly elastic. 4. Solutions of chloride of zinc and ammoniacal oxide of copper, like sulphuric acid, transform cellulose into an amorphous mass. When, after treatment, this mass is exposed to wind and rain for some weeks, it is completely changed into hydrocellulose, and is known as "yu-caized fiber." It is made in two varieties, the flexible and the hard. It has been made in sheets in the United States since 1878, and is now formed into tubes, rods, cog wheels, etc., and used to replace rubber and leather. 5. Treatment of cellulose with sulphuric and nitric acids yields nitrocellulose. This is the starting point of the high explosives, and with camphor is changed into collodion which has very varied applications. 6. English makers are turning out an imitation leather, called "pegamoid." This is a mixture of cotton and paper covered with a secret composition, supposed to be celluloid, with some oil, and is used for trunks, curtains, etc.

Leaking from steam pipes is believed to have been greatly underestimated, tests by Mr. R. S. Hale having indicated the following proportions of loss: In mills, 5 to 16 per cent; electric plants, 2½ per cent; steamships, 1½ to 10 per cent; waterworks, 2½ per cent.

Detonations heard at about the time of the Umbria-Marche earthquake of Dec. 18, 1897, have been made a subject of study by Prof. A. Issel, an Italian seismologist. These detonations were quite distinct from the ordinary earthquake sound and were more or less prolonged crashes, resembling the boom of thunder or the report of heavy guns in the distance. Sometimes they were isolated, at other times following one another at brief intervals. To many persons the crashes seemed to come from Monte Norone, where the epicentre of the earthquake was situated. Similar sounds are frequently heard by inhabitants of the middle Appenine region, to whom they are known by the name of "Bombo," and, as they are very often closely connected with earthquakes, it is concluded that they are mostly due to causes within the earth. These mysterious booms are of the kind known in other places as "Barisal Guns," "Mist-Poofers," etc.

Interesting and beautiful effects of the well-known etching of glass by fluoric acid have been reported by Mr. C. E. Busham, of Colchester, Eng. Various salts are crystallized in a thin layer on glass which is well warmed to prevent the crystals from dissolving, and the glass is then exposed to the vapor for three to five minutes. The microscopic forms of the crystals are accurately reproduced on the glass.

The power station at Pont l'Abbe, Finisterre, France, utilizes the tides for fourteen hours a day, the tidal fall being seven feet and a half, generating eighty horse-power.

The water at flood tide flows through a canal two miles and a half long to a pond returning to the sea at ebb tide.

Coldness of the feet from tea-drinking, an effect sometimes observed, is explained by Prof. Hutchinson, F.R.S., as probably due to contraction of the arteries. On one lady tea-drinker the feet were not only cold but were wet with perspiration.

The calamander tree of Ceylon, allied to the ebony family, and represented by only 93 specimens, is credited with the very rarest wood. The tree is carefully protected.

## VISITORS AT HOTELS.

## HONGKONG HOTEL.

Mr. J. H. Althen Mr. C. Lima

Mr. F. Andret Mr. H. Lord

Mrs. Angus Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Macleod & chilren

Mr. J. A. Parler Mr. A. Campbell Macmillan

Mr. W. S. Bailey Mr. & Mrs. Melton

Mr. J. B. Barlow Mr. J. Y. Mayston

Mr. H. B. Baity Mr. & Mrs. E. McLeod

Mr. W. Benson Mr. T. S. Mese

Com. Blackburn, R.N. Mr. A. Meurer

Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Holstein Mr. E. O. Murphy

Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Brown Mr. Va. Niro